



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glenwood Springs Field Office
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602



RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING #3

Glenwood Springs Field Office

Wednesday, January 16, 2008 (5:00 PM – 8:00 PM)

Meeting Location: BLM Energy Office (2425 Grand Avenue, Glenwood Springs, CO)

SUMMARY NOTES

Attendees: John Baily (EcoTrails), Chris Beebe (Red Hill Council), Steve Dahmer, Michael Kennedy (Roaring Fork Climbers Coalition), Ken Neubecker (Trout Unlimited), Greg Noss (High Country 4-wheelers), Steve Smith (The Wilderness Society), Tom Turnbull, Desa Ausmus (BLM), Tom Fresques (BLM), Brian Hopkins (BLM), Brian Moiorano (BLM), Angie Adams (EMPS, Inc.), Chad Ricklefs (Tetra Tech, Inc.).

Handouts:

- Agenda
- Initial Draft – Alternative Discussion for the Glenwood Springs and Kremmling Resource Management Plan Revisions (January 16, 2008)
- Glenwood Springs Field Office SRMA Issues (January 15, 2008)
- Glenwood Springs Field Office BLM Possible Special Recreation Management Areas Map (January 3, 2008)
- Glenwood Springs Resource Area Oil and Gas Leasing and Development Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendment (March 1999)
- Glenwood Springs Field Office Lands and Realty Program Overview
- Draft Lands and Realty Criteria, GSFO/KFO RMP Revision (January 16, 2008)
- Energy Transportation Corridor Designation under Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005
- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, is the Bureau of Land management “organic act” that establishes the agency’s multiple-use mandate to serve present and future generations (cover page only)

WELCOME

Brian Hopkins (BLM) and Angie Adams (EMPSi) welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their participation, which was followed by a round robin of introductions.

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

- None

UPDATE ON THE RMP PLANNING PROCESS

- Angie Adams: Critical timeline handed out previously is current. Wild and scenic report is out for review.

ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

- Handout: Initial Draft – Alternative Discussion for the Glenwood Springs and Kremmling Resource Management Plan Revisions (January 16, 2008)
- Angie Adams provided an overview of the handout. Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Subcommittee comments have been incorporated into this version. Twelve issues have been narrowed

down to six (6) key issues that will form the base of the alternatives (page 3). RAC Subcommittee should provide comments/thoughts on the Key Issues. Six “Other Issues” were identified as lesser impact on the direction of the RMP Alternatives. BLM would like RAC Subcommittee comment on general Alternative themes and six key issues.

- Ultimately BLM would like RAC Subcommittee’s comment on the alternatives being presented in the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) / Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) after BLM incorporates agency/public comments into the alternatives.
 - RAC Subcommittee question: Will all alternatives need to meet the other issues (i.e., water/riparian)? BLM response: Yes, regulations and standards cover this type of issue.
 - RAC Subcommittee comment: Hard to describe an alternative (extractive, conservation, recreation, no action) for the entire planning area. Easy to describe specific areas for these types of directions. BLM response: RMP will develop a range of alternative directions (set parameters). Each resource will have a unique range (broad or narrow); some resources are already constrained.
 - RAC Subcommittee comment: Alternative D description, move second sentence to the forefront of the description. BLM response: This is a draft version; will revise this handout with comments from all committees.
 - RAC Subcommittee question: Does BLM anticipate the RAC Subcommittee creating new alternatives in addition to the four already presented, i.e., a hybrid that includes components of the current alternatives? BLM response: These could be considered but the best approach would be to modify the current alternatives. BLM would like help on developing the appropriate mix of uses in the alternatives.
 - RAC Subcommittee question: Can the RAC Subcommittee illustrate areas on a map? BLM response: Yes, but need to be able to describe why the circles were drawn on a map.

RESOURCE/RESOURCE USE DISCUSSIONS WITH GSFO STAFF

1. RECREATION

- Handouts: GSFO SRMA Issues (1/15/08), GSFO Possible SRMAs map (1/3/08), Glenwood Springs Resource Area Oil and Gas Leasing and Development Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Amendment (March 1999)
- Brian Moiorano (BLM Recreation Planner) presented topic.
- Possible Community Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) that need managing partners are listed in the handout. Brian Hopkins asked group if these SRMAs are appropriate, etc. Brian Hopkins asked group if these SRMAs are appropriate, etc.
- Brian Moiorano walked through the 10 possible community SRMAs on handout and map.
- Brian Moiorano presented the major issues for select SRMAs (see GSFO SRMA Issues [1/15/08] handout):
 - Rifle Arch: Sandstone arch, climbing/hiking activities at this location.
 - Rifle Arch/Grand Hogback: Area has already been leased for energy development.
 - Silt Mesa: Area used for dumping trash, shooting, etc. How can this area be protected? Need community support.
 - New Castle: Would the community want more than the current trail?
 - Fisher Creek/Cattle Creek: Increased residential development nearby will increase demand; conflicts with winter wildlife needs. Motorized activity concerns.
 - The Crown: Motorized activity use.
 - Thompson Creek: Is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (rock fins). Climbing-related activities concerns. Concern is not physical damage to rocks from bolts, but more visual impact (manmade action impacting resource).
 - Red Hill Gypsum: Motor bike use, dog walking from back yards.
 - Hardscrabble: Critical habitat in this area. How much of area and where should SRMA be designated?
 - Siloam Springs: Can cultural resources be protected with travel management actions?
- RAC Subcommittee Discussion

- RAC Subcommittee question: Who will be doing the work (i.e., management, development, etc.) at the proposed SRMAs? Can they be implemented in phases? BLM response: Implementation would generally be deferred until resources are available.
- RAC Subcommittee comment: Consider designating SRMAs now and implementing them (with partners, etc.) later; delay the implementation and management. BLM response: Deferring management is not ideal.
- RAC Subcommittee comment: Consider phasing implementation, but important to designate areas now before they are gone.
- BLM comment: Range of alternatives may include different sized SRMAs. RMP will also consider concentrating uses in particular areas.
- RAC Subcommittee question: Does this plan limit the ability to manage for unforeseen issues in the future? BLM response: No, the RMP can be amended in the future as an example. Should begin implementation as early as possible to illustrate BLM's long-term management direction for specific areas.
- RAC Subcommittee question: What is the Cooperating Agencies stance on partnerships? BLM response: The municipalities are interested and would like to continue partnering in the future.
- RAC Subcommittee question: Does the BLM have a list prioritizing SRMAs? BLM response: Based on working with the public, BLM has a sense which SRMAs may be more viable.
- RAC Subcommittee question: How many SRMAs can a Field Office handle? BLM response: Depends on management obligations. Things that take up resources are trash pickup, kiosks, trailheads, restrooms, etc.
- RAC Subcommittee question: How much cooperation is there between BLM and Forest Service or communities in certain areas? BLM response: Town of Eagle is a partner to manage Eagle Ranch trailheads and kiosks, which are located on town lands.
- RAC Subcommittee question: Is there a citizens' watch group for Fisher Creek or other developments where they are watching how the communities grant approvals for developments, etc.? BLM response: There is not a particular watch group.
- Brian Hopkins summarized – what is the appropriate mixture of recreation use/designations to consider in the range of alternatives? February 20, 2008, RAC Subcommittee meeting will review the general direction of the alternatives.
- Brian Moiorano asked group if they would like to review more specific SRMAs. RAC Subcommittee would like to participate in an additional meeting to discuss more focused review of SRMAs. This can happen after the overall range of alternatives has been discussed and approved by the RAC Subcommittee. Group scheduled meeting for Wednesday, February 27, 2008, 5:00-8:30pm. Need RAC Subcommittee feedback on which SRMAs they support and want to work on in more detail.

2. FISH & WILDLIFE (INC. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES)

Fish

- Tom Fresques (BLM West Slope Fish Biologist) presented to the group (see separate PowerPoint presentation). Presentation listed goals and objectives for general fishes (non special status) and special status fishes, and some of the general management measures that might be desired under alternatives.
- RAC Subcommittee Discussion
 - RAC Subcommittee question: Are there improvement actions that are limited at this time? BLM response: Not currently.
 - RAC Subcommittee question: Can BLM provide critical habitat locations? BLM response: Yes, this information is available.
 - RAC Subcommittee question: Can a map be prepared that illustrates the “most important waterbodies” to protect? Map should include access points to critical waterbodies also.
 - RAC Subcommittee question: How does an area designated as an SRMA address critical habitat areas? BLM response: ACECs, seasonal closures, etc. could still be applied as necessary.

- RAC Subcommittee comment: Need to consider other slopes for restrictions beyond 50 percent (which is specified in the 1999 oil and gas plan).

Wildlife

- Desa Ausmus (BLM Wildlife Biologist) made a presentation on Land Health Standard 3 (see separate PowerPoint presentation). Presentation described habitat types, some proposed actions, and ideas for protecting sagebrush habitat.
- RAC Subcommittee Discussion
 - RAC Subcommittee comment: Would be helpful to know percentage of leased areas during planning process. BLM response: Map was presented in scoping process that illustrated this. BLM will provide maps in the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) that illustrates this issue.
 - Many existing leases expire in 10 years so they will come up for reissuance under this RMP. Could apply new stipulations at that time.
- Brian Hopkins asked group to continue to provide ranges of alternatives for fish and wildlife.

3. LANDS AND REALTY

- Handouts: Glenwood Springs Field Office Lands and Realty Program Overview, Draft Lands and Realty Criteria, GSFOKFO RMP Revision (January 16, 2008), Energy Transportation Corridor Designation under Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, is the BLM's "organic act" that establishes the agency's multiple-use mandate to serve present and future generations (cover page only)
- Brian Hopkins summarized the handouts.
- RAC Subcommittee Discussion:
 - RAC Subcommittee comment: Cooperating Agency comment: Will RMP include a list of land disposals, retention, or acquisition? BLM response: RMP will not include a list or map of actual designated parcels. RMP will include a criteria list to help guide disposals/acquisitions.
- Brian Hopkins asked group to continue to provide input for this topic area.

OTHER ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- RAC Subcommittee would like to have roundtable discussions among various non-BLM citizens to discuss their view of acceptable compatible uses (e.g., grazing, wilderness, fish, mountain climbing, biking, etc.). Need to have discussions at every future meeting; approximately one hour of the meeting time needs to be dedicated to roundtable-type discussion.
- Rifle Chamber of Commerce RAC Subcommittee member has changed jobs and is no longer part of the RAC Subcommittee. BLM question: Should she be replaced? RAC Subcommittee response: It would be difficult for someone new to get up to speed on the project. RAC Subcommittee decision: Do not seek to replace Rifle Chamber member.
- RAC Subcommittee comment: RAC Subcommittee should have someone from each town in Field Office to review what BLM is doing. BLM response: Towns and counties are cooperating agencies so are participating.
- RAC Subcommittee question: How far does this subcommittee go in the RMP/EIS process? BLM response: As of now the subcommittee is to help develop the alternatives only. Brian Hopkins said that this subcommittee should talk to the RAC about further tasks.

NEXT MEETING

- Next GSFO RAC Subcommittee meetings are scheduled as follows (all will be from 5:00pm – 8:30pm)
 - Wednesday, January 30, 2008: First portion of meeting will be a roundtable discussion of previous RAC Subcommittee meeting discussions. Remaining time will likely cover wild and scenic rivers suitability, vegetation, grazing, and wilderness character.
 - Wednesday, February 6, 2008: First portion of meeting will be a roundtable discussion of previous RAC Subcommittee meeting discussions. Remaining time will likely cover fluid minerals and energy.
 - Wednesday, February 20, 2008: First portion of meeting will be a roundtable discussion of previous RAC Subcommittee meeting discussions. Remaining time to be focused on getting RAC Subcommittee buyoff on the range of alternatives.

- Wednesday, February 27, 2008: First portion of meeting will be a roundtable discussion of previous RAC Subcommittee meeting discussions. Remaining time will be focused on SRMAs.

ACTION ITEMS

- ☐ For future meeting dates, see “Next Meeting” above.
- ☐ At future meetings, need to discuss (at beginning of agenda), the draft Chapter 2 and any comments and feedback.
- ☐ **Brian Hopkins (BLM):** Email Fisheries map (fish.pdf) from GSFO AMS to RAC Subcommittee members.
- ☐ **Brian Hopkins (BLM):** Email Oil & Gas Leases and Occurrence Potential map from GSFO AMS to RAC Subcommittee members.
- ☐ **Brian Hopkins (BLM):** Email RAC representative on RAC Subcommittee to indicate what Subcommittee decided.
- ☐ **Angie Adams (EMPSi):** Extend remaining RAC Subcommittee meeting time to 8:30pm to accommodate roundtable discussions.

CRR – January 16, 2008